

January 22, 2014

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2014 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects.”

The legislation I am filing includes supplemental funding requests of \$126.6 million (\$107.1 million after accounting for offsetting revenue) to fund obligations including:

- \$45.4 million for family emergency shelter services. Even with the program reforms my Administration has implemented, the state continues to see historic levels of demand for emergency housing services.
- \$16 million (\$0 net) for premium costs associated with new municipalities joining the Group Insurance Commission, which will be paid from revenues received from those municipalities.
- \$14.5 million in a reserve to offset projected deficiencies at state sheriffs’ offices.
- \$11.1 million for costs associated with collective bargaining.
- \$7.9 million to support the Department of Youth Services in implementing the 2013 Raise the Age legislation.
- \$7.5 million for a reserve to support community college engagement in urban communities, including \$3 M for Roxbury Community College.
- \$2.8 million to further enhance the Department of Children and Families’ work to protect youth served by the Department and strengthen families.
- \$1 million to maintain Prescription Advantage eligibility requirements.

The above fiscal year 2014 items are quite time-sensitive. Accordingly, I especially request their prompt enactment.

This legislation also includes some budget-related and other technical language changes, including the following:

- Limiting transfers of large one-time settlements to the Stabilization Fund, to those exceeding the five-year median.
- Making additional reforms to our transportation system.
- Codifying the Office of Access and Opportunity and the Task Force on the Underground Economy.
- Streamlining the Appellate Tax Board small claims process.
- Prohibiting clinical laboratory self-referrals.

Sufficient revenues are estimated to be available to finance these appropriations. I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,